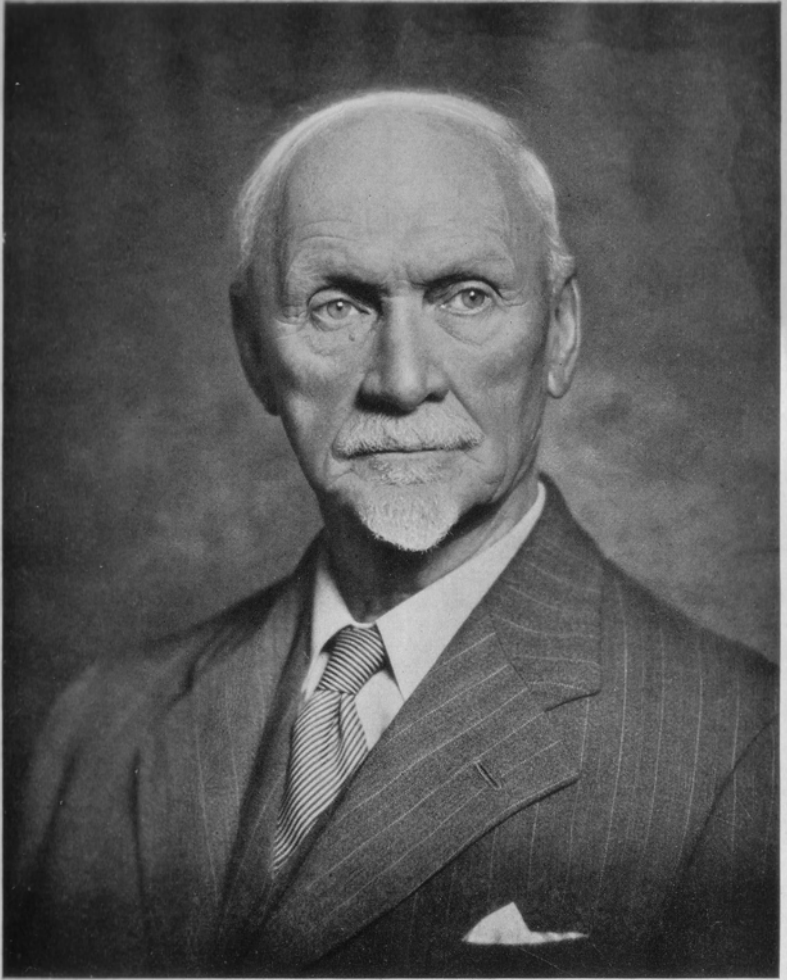


JAN  
CHRISTIAN

SMUTS

BY HIS SON

J. C.  
SMUTS



**General JC Smuts. Cape Town , 1949**

## **DUSTCOVER PREVIEW**

This biography of one of the greatest and most respected men of our time has a very special intimacy and authenticity. No other man could have brought to it such a full knowledge and understanding, for this is a record of Smuts's life by his own son. The official biography, freely documented and substantiated in the smallest detail, is in course of preparation by a group of scholars accredited by Smuts's own family and the South African Government, but that work cannot be ready for some years. Meanwhile, this life of the greatest man South Africa has produced is of special interest, both for the portrait it paints and for the inside history of South Africa which it relates. For the story of Smuts is the story of South Africa and his whole life was spent in

a constant struggle against the political creed which is the root cause of the troubles in the Union today.

Smuts began life on a South African farm, completed his education in England where he read law at Cambridge, was called to the Bar and returned to South Africa to practise as a lawyer. His friendship with President Kruger led him into politics, and a passionate love of his own country into the Boer War. His training in England, however, and his understanding of the British point of view gave him his great opportunity for statesmanship when he and his great friend Botha together brought their country back into prosperity by way of Union at home and peace and friendship with Britain. With the death of Botha the leadership of South Africa fell wholly on the shoulders of Smuts.

In the First World War his drive and foresight kept South Africa free of the Germans and in the darkest days of 1917 he was appointed a member of the British War Cabinet. At the Peace Conference at Versailles he fought hard for a just treaty which would bring lasting peace and it was he who was responsible for much of the Covenant of the League of Nations. Until the moment of his death on September 11th, 1950, he brought all his great powers to the fight to keep South Africa on an undeviating course based firmly on prosperity for his own country through constant and whole-hearted co-operation with Great Britain and the Commonwealth of Nations.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY**

**BORN:** 14th May, 1870, on the farm Boplaas at Riebeeck West, Cape.

**SCHOOL:** 1882-1888 at Riebeeck West, Cape.

**UNIVERSITY:** 1889-1891 Stellenbosch University College. Graduated B.A. in Science and Literature.

1892-1894 Cambridge University (Ebden Scholarship). Double First Law Tripos.

**WROTE “WALT WHITMAN: A STUDY IN THE EVOLUTION OF PERSONALITY”:** 1895-1896.

**PRACTISED AS LAWYER:** 1903 - 1906 (Cape Town and Johannesburg).

**MARRIED:** 1897 – Sybella Margaretha Krige.

**STATE ATTORNEY:** (South African Republic): 1898-1900.

**BOER GENERAL:** 1901-1902 (Command Boer Forces in Cape).

**PRACTISED AS LAWYER:** 1903-1906 (Pretoria).

**MINISTER OF INTERIOR:** (Colonial Secretary) (Transvaal Colony 1907-1909).

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** (Transvaal Colony 1907-1909).

NATIONAL CONVENTION: 1909-1910. Transvaal delegate and Chief drafter of Constitution of Union of South Africa.

MINISTER OF MINES: Union of South Africa 1910-1915

MINISTER OF INTERIOR: Union of South Africa 1910-1915

MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Union of South Africa 1910-1915

MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Union of South Africa 1915-1919

MINISTER OF FINANCE: Union of South Africa 1915-1919

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN: (Major-General –1914): 1915

GERMAN EAST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN: (Lieut.-General 10.02.1916): 1916-1917  
General Officer Commanding all Forces.

WAR CABINET: (Great Britain): 1917-1918

SIGNED PEACE OF VERSAILLES: 1919. Plenipotentiary for South Africa.

PRIME MINISTER: 1919-1924

MINISTER OF DEFENCE: 1919-1924

MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS: 1919-1924

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: 1924-1933

WROTE "HOLISM AND EVOLUTION": 1924

PRESIDENT BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: 1931

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: 1933-1939

MINISTER OF JUSTICE: 1933-1939

PRIME MINISTER: 1939-1948

MINISTER OF DEFENCE: 1939-1948

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: 1939-1948

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN FORCES: Second World War: 1940-1945

FIELD MARSHAL: From 24.05.1941

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: 1948-1950

DIED: 11th September, 1950 (80 years), on the farm Doornkloof, Irene.

## **HONOURS-AWARDS-DECORATIONS:**

### **COMMONWEALTH APPOINTMENTS AND DECORATIONS:**

Privy Councillor	Efficiency Decoration
Order of Merit	King's Counsel
Companion of Honour	Fellow of the Royal Society
Dekoratie voor trouwe Dienst	Benchet of the Middle Temple

### **STARS AND MEDALS-COMMONWEALTH AND SOUTH AFRICAN:**

Boer War Medal	Africa Star
1914/15 Star	Italy Star
Victory Medal	France and Germany Star
General Service Medal	Defence Medal
King George V's Jubilee Medal	War Medal
King George VI's Coronation Medal	Africa Service Medal

### **FOREIGN DECORATIONS AND MEDALS:**

Order of Merit (U.S.A.)  
Service Medal (Mediterranean Area) U.S.A.  
Order of the Tower and Sword for Valour, Loyalty and Merit (Portugal)  
Grootkruis van die Orde van de Nederlandsche Leeuw (Netherlands)  
Grand Cordon of the Order of Mohamed Ali (Egypt)



Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the Saviour (Greece)  
Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold (Belgium)  
Croix de Guerre (Belgium)  
Legion d'Honneur Croix de Commandeur (France)  
La Grand Croix de L'Ordre de L'Etoile Africaine (Belgium)  
King Christian X Frihedsmedaille (Denmark)  
Ariston Andrias (Greece)  
Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts  
WoodrowWilson Peace Medal

**FREEMAN OF THE CITIES OF:**

London, 1917	York, 1931
Manchester, 1917	Dundee, 1934
Edinburgh, 1917	Aberdeen, 1942
Glasgow, 1917	Birmingham, 1944
Bath, 1917	Malmesbury, 1945
Cardiff, 1917	Southampton, 1945
Bristol, 1917	Athens, 1947
Sheffield, 1917	Ithaca, 1947
Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1918	Johannesburg, 1950

## **HONORARY DEGREES:**

LL.D. University of Cape of Good Hope, 1915

LL.D. University of South Africa, 1915

LL.D. Cambridge University, 1917

LL.D. Edinburgh University, 1917

F.R.C.P. Edinburgh

LL.D. Glasgow University, 1917

LL.D. University of Wales, 1917

LL.D. Dublin University, 1917

LL.D. Manchester University, 1917

D.C.L. Durham University, 1918

LL.D. Cardiff- University, 1921

D.C.L. Oxford University, 1929

LL.D. Witwatersrand University, 1921

LL.D. McGill University, Montreal, 1930

LL.D. Toronto University, 1930

LL.D. Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, 1930

LL.D. Columbia University, New York, 1930

D.Litt. University of Pretoria, 1930

D.Sc. University of Cape Town, 1931

Ph.D. University of Stellenbosch, 1931

D.Sc. London University, 1931

LL.D. Sheffield University, 1931  
LL.D. St. Andrews, 1934  
LL.D. University of Utrecht, 1936  
PPh.D. Berkeley University, California, 1945  
LL.D. Leyden University, 1946  
F.R.C.O.G. (England), 1947  
F.R.C.P. (London), 1948  
PPh.D. Athens.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS HONOURS:**

Chancellor. University of Cambridge  
Clothworkers' Company, 1917  
Bencher Middle Temple, June, 1947  
Trinity Brethren, September, 1918  
Sword of Honour, Pretoria, October, 1919  
Skinners' Company, 1929  
Great Seal of the State of Massachusetts, January, 1930  
President of the S.A. Association for the Advancement of Science, 1925  
(Oudtshoorn)  
President of the British Association (Centenary Meeting London and York), 1931  
Rector of St. Andrews, Scotland, 1931/4  
Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Great Britain)  
Hon. Fellow Christ's College, Cambridge.

## **SUMMARY**

**PRIME MINISTER:** for 14 years.

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Officially for 5 years: unofficially for 9 years.

**MINISTER:** for 17 years, during which he held portfolios of Education, Interior, Mines, Defence, Finance, Native Affairs, Justice and External Affairs.

**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:** for 10 years.

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:** for 45 years, of which 41 years were since Union.

**FREEMAN:** of 18 Cities.

**HONORARY DEGREES:** from 29 Universities.

**VERY MANY COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN DECORATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND MEDALS.**

**FIELD MARSHAL.**

**ORDER OF MERIT.**